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June 21, 1999

Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management
FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Drive
Room 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Mr. Jaffe,

We are writing to express support of the petition to ban the forced molting of "layer hens" (docket 98P-0203/CP).

As citizens and concerned consumers, we strongly urge the U.S. FDA to do whatever is in its power to ban the forced molting of "layer hens." This disgusting practice should put all Americans to shame. When we read of this practice recently, one of us was literally reduced to tears. Have we sunk so low?

The conditions most U.S. farm animals, including chickens, live in is absolutely deplorable. We have no quibble with humane family farms, but many practices in "factory farming" are revolting. The lives of "layer hens" are miserable, and the practice of forced molting is one of the most revolting things we've ever heard of. Depriving living breathing animals of food and water for two weeks and more? Keeping those living breathing animals in total darkness for weeks? Leaving dead chickens in with the live (albeit dying) chickens? Disgusting.

It's easy to say "they're just chickens." But that's the easy answer, and we're sure you agree that the easy way out is rarely the best way. Please, Mr. Jaffe, do what you can to stop immoral and inhumane practices in American agriculture.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,



Terren Wein

Michael Verde
98P-0203

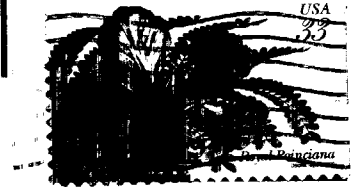
Michael Verde

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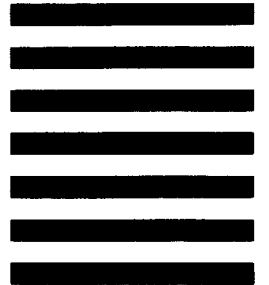
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